Public Comment
(Thursday April 6th)

Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 5, 2000

Greetings Pacific Fishery Management Council and Guests,

As our history tells us we haven’t allowed wise choices when the alarm has been sounded. I say this in regards to the words of our former President, Theodore Roosevelt who in 1908 voiced to congress for regulations on the Columbia River, “The Salmon fisheries of the Columbia River are now but a fraction of what they were 25 years ago.”

I plead with each of you with that same voice of urgency to do the following A.S.A.P.:

1. Put a five-year moratorium on both sport and commercial fishing for salmon and steelhead up and down the coastline and to every tributary.
2. Cease all tribal fishing on the Columbia River and allow the treaty rights to be, as they were a few years back, on the Willamette River at the falls in Oregon City.
3. Stop the catch of any ocean sustenance of Salmon and Steelhead. I.E. anchovies and herring for five years.
4. Have an open harvesting of predators that are protected under Federal law. The decimation of Seals and Sea Lions is a must. The balance of nature is off-balance and we need to step in quickly.
5. Cease all ocean operations of open nets known as draggers. The incidental catch of Salmon and Steelhead is a horrendous and horrifying destruction of fish runs by these open nets that are legally in operation.

There is so much more that we need to do that I’m sure you have already discussed. Please find favor with the urgency of my plea and that of others.

Thank you for your time.

Appreciatively,

Carl F. Ness
Concerned Fisherman & Outdoor Enthusiast